

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Douglas et al.

Serial No.: 10/736,199 Art Unit:

Filed : December 15, 2003 Examiner:

For : Variable Stiffness Shaft

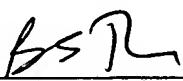
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

August 25, 2004

(Date of Deposit)

Brian S. Tomko

(Name of applicant, assignee, or Registered Representative)



(Signature)

August 25, 2004

(Date of Signature)

Commissioner For Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME
AND AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT THEREFOR

Dear Sir:

Applicant(s) petition(s) the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to extend the time for response to the Office Action dated March 26, 2004 for three(3) month(s) from May 26, 2004 to August 26, 2004. The Declaration and Formal Drawings are being filed concurrently herewith.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 10-0750/ETH5099/BST in the name of Johnson & Johnson for the cost of filing this Petition. Three copies of this Petition are enclosed.

08/30/2004 MAHMED1 00000071 100750 10736199

02 FC:1253 950.00 DA

Respectfully submitted,



Brian S. Tomko
Reg. No. 41,349
Attorney for Applicant(s)

Johnson & Johnson
One Johnson & Johnson Plaza
New Brunswick, NJ 08933-7003
(732) 524-1239
DATE: August 25, 2004